

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /171 W
----- 092802

R 261430Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5750

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS COTONOU 1838

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XY, ECON, DM

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
(ECOWAS) AND ENTENTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. ON RETURN FROM LOME ECOWAS AND ENTENTE COUNCIL MEETINGS,
FORMIN ALLADAYE GAVE HIS VIEWS ON MEETINGS IN INTERVIEW WITH
"LA VOIX DE LA REVOLUTION." THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED
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IN DEC 20 EDITION OF "DAHO-EXPRESS." THE PROPOSED NEW

COMMUNITY, ALLADAYE SAID, COMPLETELY MET MRGD HOPES, ESPECIALLY SINCE TOGOLESE AND NIGERIANS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED GRACEFULLY DAHOMEAN CRITICISM THAT WORKING DOCUMENT HAD CONTAINED "GAPS IN SPIRIT" NOTABLY IN ITS EMPHASIS ON FREEING TRADE BARRIERS WITHOUT PROVIDING SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION FOR LOST TAX AND CUSTOMS REVENUES RESULTING FROM FREER TRADE. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER, GOOD FEELING CREATED IN LOME AUGURS WELL FOR CREATION OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY IN NEAR FUTURE. AT PRESENT, ALLADAYE SAID, PLANS CALL FOR TECHNICAL MEETING IN ACCRA IN JANUARY AND ANOTHER MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN MARCH TO PREPARE FOR A SUBSEQUENT CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ENTENTE COUNCIL MEETING, ALLADAYE STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXAMINATION AND REVISION OF THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE "FONDS D'ENTRAIDE ET DE GARANTIE DES EMPRIENTS DU CONSEIL DE L'ENTENTE" WHICH IS TO EXPAND ITS ROLE BEYOND BEING GUARANTOR OF FOREIGN LOANS TO DIRECT FINANCING. AMONG LOANS GUARANTEED BY THE FUND WERE SOME 4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PROJECTS IN DAHOMEY INCLUDING: OPERATION KENAF, THE NATIONAL COTTON COMPANY - ICODA; THE ENTENTE VILLA PROJECT; AND A POSSIBLE GUARANTEE OF 200,000 DOLLARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COTTON AND PEANUT OIL REFINERY AT BOHICON IN DAHOMEY. IN ADDITION TO THIS FINANCIAL ROLE, ENTENTE COUNCIL IS GRADUALLY BECOMING RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ON A REGIONAL BASIS SUCH AS THE 6 MILLION DOLLAR USAID LIVESTOCK LOAN, THE GRAIN STABILIZATION LOAN, AND THE USAID SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM. THIS DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION HAS LED THE ENTENTE TO UNDERTAKE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO CREATE A FUND TO HELP LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE ENTENTE. THIS FUND PRESENTLY DISBURSES CFA 350 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO REPORTED THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ENTENTE NOT WAIT FOR CEAO BUT PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN MEAT PROJECT SINCE THE CEAO PROJECT HAD NOT YET GOTTEN OFF GROUND. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LOME REGIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE TRAINING CENTER, THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CONTINUE SUBSIDIES TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH ALLADAYE SAID USAID HAS BEEN GRADUALLY REDUCING ITS SUPPORT. TO PROMOTE TOURISM WITHIN ENTENTE, COUNCIL AGREED TO CONSTRUCT HOTELS IN IVORY COAST, DAHOMEY AND TOGO RESPECTIVELY AND TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MORE IN UPPER

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